

Diocesan pre-Synodal Gathering

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops



Archdiocese of Hobart

Burnie, Launceston, Hobart

April 30 & May 1





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DECREE OF CONVOCATION
Diocesan pre-Synodal Meeting 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the theme for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023 would be "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" and invited the entire Church to reflect on this theme and take part in a diocesan consultation process to promote a sense of communion and journeying together.

The journey towards the celebration of the Synod opened in dioceses around the world in October 2021 guided by the fundamental proposition that a synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together" and inviting consideration of how this "journeying together" is happening locally and what steps might we discern the Holy Spirit is inviting us to take to grow in our "journeying together"?

In Australian dioceses this consultation occurs within the broader context of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia by which "the synodal path along which God's Spirit is calling the Local Church" is already being advanced.

This consultation phase of the Synod of Bishops culminates in each diocese with a pre-Synodal Meeting. The gathering provides the opportunity for all members of the diocese to come together for a liturgical celebration, to pray together, to reflect upon, listen and prayerfully discern what the Holy Spirit has tried to inspire in us during the consultation period.

Therefore, as Bishop, I formally convoke our Diocesan pre-Synodal Meeting and invite the clergy, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese of Hobart, and those engaged in the service of its agencies and ministries to gather in prayer with me at one of the three geographical centres listed here:

30 April 2022	11am - 1pm	St. Mary's Star of The Sea, Burnie
	3 - 5pm	Church of the Apostles, Launceston
1 May 2022	2 - 4pm	St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

I look forward to our time together

Yours in Christ,

Julian Porteous DD
Archbishop of Hobart



5 April 2022

Rev Fr Terry Rush
Chancellor

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

ALL Thus says the Lord: Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL Amen.

✠ Peace be with you.

ALL And with your Spirit.

✠ My brothers and sisters, as we gather today, we do well to listen to the words of the Holy Father Pope Francis, who has called us to journey together in becoming a Church that is truly synodal:

“The Church too, in her entirety, has undertaken a synodal process, and counts on your contribution. Let us recall, in this regard, that synodality is not a simple discussion. Nor is it an “adjective”.

... Nor is synodality the search for the consensus of the majority; this is what a parliament does, this is what is done in politics. It is not a plan, a programme to be implemented.

No. It is a style to be assumed, in which the main protagonist is the Holy Spirit, who is expressed first and foremost in the Word of God, read, meditated upon, and shared together.”

(Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the delegation of the Catholic Action Movement of France, 13 January 2022)

Across the millennia the Church has raised up thousands of saints and given courage to countless martyrs. Inspired mystics and founders of religious orders. Belief in what the Catholic faith offers to human life has resulted in thousands of missionaries pouring out their lives to enable others to know Christ and discover joy, hope and salvation in Him.

However, today the Church in Australia is in serious decline, in the midst of an existential crisis as it witnesses countless numbers of the faithful abandoning participation in the sacramental life of the Church each year.

Without a serious effort at interior renewal and a refreshed zeal for evangelisation, the Church in Australia is at serious risk of becoming a shallow image of its former self.

So today, as we place ourselves humbly in the presence of God, to listen to His Word, to listen to the voices of others, and to reflect upon what we hear, and as we respond to the Holy Father's call to journey together along this synodal path in which the main protagonist is always the Holy Spirit let us not lose sight of the person of Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

Penitential Act

Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

✠ Dear Brothers and Sisters,
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created,
which will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial of our Baptism.
May God help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

Lord our God, in your mercy be present to your people's prayers,
and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation
and the still greater work of our redemption,
graciously ✠ bless this water.

For you created water to make the fields fruitful
and to refresh and cleanse our bodies.
You also made water the instrument of your mercy:
for through water you freed your people from slavery
and quenched their thirst in the desert;
through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant
you were to enter upon with the human race;
and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan,
you have renewed our corrupted nature
in the bath of regeneration.

Therefore, may this water be for us
a memorial of the Baptism we have received,
and grant that we may share
in the gladness of our brothers and sisters
who at Easter received their Baptism.
Through Christ our Lord.

ALL Amen.

The bishop sprinkles those present with the holy water...

Collect

✠ O God, whose Son promised
to all those gathered in his name
that he would be there in their midst,
grant, we pray,
that we may be aware of His presence among us
and, in truth and charity, experience in our hearts
an abundance of grace, mercy and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

ALL Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

2:1-4

Be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead.

The word of the Lord.

℟ *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R̄ Jn 6:68

R̄ Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. R̄

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. R̄

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. R̄

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. R̄

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 16:13; 14:26

Alleluia, alleluia!

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you all truth,
and bring to your mind all I have told you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

14:23-29

The Advocate will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to know
that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
So that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily Most Rev Julian Porteous DD
Archbishop of Hobart



PRAYER, LISTENING AND REFLECTION

- ✠ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops, the Holy Father Pope Francis said:

... The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of *synodality* which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.

... A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realises that listening "is more than simply hearing". It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Truth" (*Jn 14:17*), in order to know what He "says to the Churches" (*Rev 2:7*). ...

Let us listen now attentively
to the words of our brothers and sisters from across the diocese
and through the invocation of the Holy Spirit
may we discern His voice through and among the many,
that He might lead us into all truth as Christ Jesus promised.

Voice 1 We "walk together", grow in faith and build relationship with Jesus very effectively when, in small groups, we pray, study scripture and read or listen to inspirational speakers. In contrast, the hierarchical and patriarchal nature of the institutional church makes "walking together" difficult. It excludes many of the laity from liturgical celebrations. Locally, we need to do more to embrace cultural minorities within our parishes. At a diocesan level, Synodality is not practised.

Voice 2 Participants agreed that three endeavours were fundamental to the renewal of the Church in Australia:

- To clean up our own act by going on mission to ourselves.
- To explicitly promote and foster the development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To embrace the traditions of our faith, both in the liturgy, and in our daily lives.

Voice 3 It was generally felt that many Catholics were no longer confident in the Faith today, with all the changes which have been introduced over these past 50- 60 years. You can verify this by the small attendance at Sunday Mass especially in the country, and lack of lusty singing! Many people are no longer sure of who they are as Catholics. Since the lockdown last year, many think it is not essential to attend Mass and that they can watch it on TV instead.

ALL **Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, bestower of most precious gifts, grant to me a strong and living faith, and a most confident hope in all divine promises, which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to You and Your guidance.**

Pause in silence for reflection.

Voice 2 Young Catholics want authentically Catholic teaching. If the Church was more vocal in proclaiming the fulness of its Social Magisterium – including workers’ rights, the preferential option for the poor, and protection of refugees and creation – many young people drawn to social justice would not simply dismiss the Church as reactionary but would understand Christ’s full message it teaches.

Voice 3 As Companions on the Journey, we are conscious of those on the margins of both our Church family and the wider community. We acknowledge the call of the Spirit to be people who are unafraid to listen from the heart to the stories and challenges of others; especially those who do not easily feel at home in our company. We identified those estranged from the family of the Church: abuse victims, their families, the divorced and remarried, LGBTQI+ people.

Voice 1 It was labelled as ‘unfair’ that many young adults must turn to the internet to learn about the Church’s teachings on matters such as the human person, and relationships. Participants thought that these teachings should be embedded in Catholic education and parish formation. The Church is being called to reclaim its teachings on who we are, what love is, and God’s vision for the family, particularly so that parents can form their children.

ALL **Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, bestower of most precious gifts, grant to me a strong and living faith, and a most confident hope in all divine promises, which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to You and Your guidance.**

Pause in silence for reflection.

Voice 3 Communication is essential for Communion. The lack of communication between the various levels of the local Church hinders ongoing growth in Communion. We see the need for a Diocesan Pastoral Council to enhance Communion and to give people a voice, and to allow the abundant gifts of the local Church to find expression in our journeying together.

Voice 2 Young faithful Catholics have a desire, above all, for authenticity in the Church. They desire reverent, humbling, Christ-centred liturgy. Many are drawn to authentic expressions of Catholic tradition: chant, incense, and processions, while many also like more contemporary forms of worship. Young people of all stripes flock to these, and to Eucharistic adoration and confession. The Church could do better at understanding and responding to this desire for liturgy in which both clergy and faithful seem full of prayer, and appear to believe in what Christ is doing in the Mass.

Voice 1 The call of Pope Francis for a synodal Church captures our hopes for our Church. If we are to journey together, there must be serious engagement with and redefinition of issues related to governance and ministry, especially the position of women in our Church, an end to clericalism and a Christ-like exercise of authority.

ALL **Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, bestower of most precious gifts, grant to me a strong and living faith, and a most confident hope in all divine promises, which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to You and Your guidance.**

Pause in silence for reflection.

Voice 1 Young Catholics want authentically Catholic service, actively proclaiming the Gospel with both words and deeds. Parishes rarely have, or even advertise, opportunities for volunteering to help the poor, yet young Catholics desire to put their faith into action. Many young people are turned off the Church as they do not get to see it putting its words into actions.

Voice 2 We believe that the Church is being called to grow authentic Christian communities enabling ongoing conversion through Christ-centred friendships, where spiritual gifts are prayed for and nurtured. We are called to a radical openness to the Holy Spirit through daily examines, prayer, praise, healing prayer and the promotion of the love of sacred Scripture.

Voice 3 Our Archbishop neglects our concerns and suggestions about liturgy, ministry, inclusivity, and governance. To be synodal, therefore, we need a means of making our Archbishop listen before he acts. We should have some say in the appointment of our leaders, both clerical and lay. We must have some institutional means to address structural problems, such as an episcopal ombudsman.

ALL **Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, bestower of most precious gifts, grant to me a strong and living faith, and a most confident hope in all divine promises, which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to You and Your guidance.**

Pause in silence for reflection.

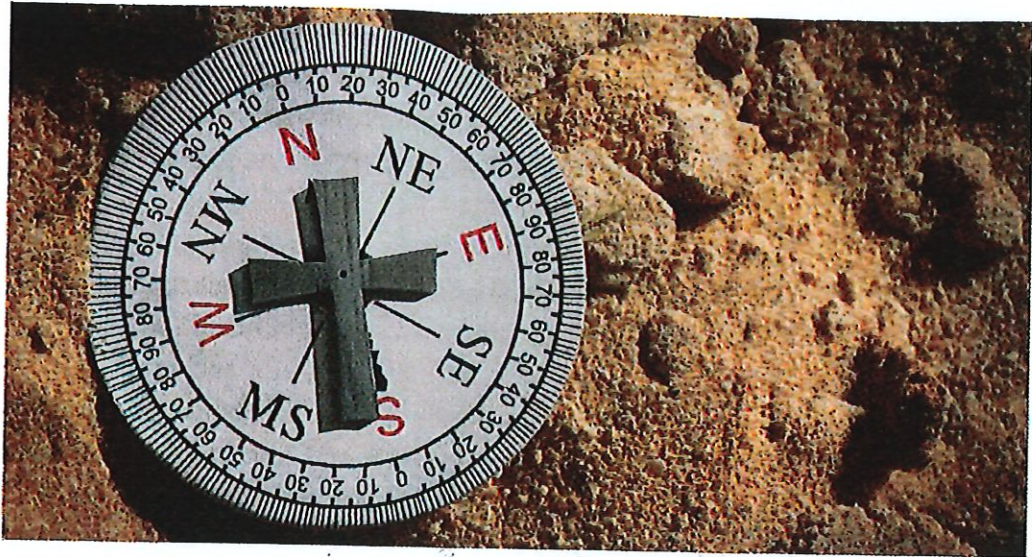
Voice 2 There is a fear of speaking the truth with courage and honesty. In order to build confidence for missionary discipleship there is a chronic need for personal, spiritual formation and adult education in the faith. To be effective missionary disciples the baptized need to be equipped to analyse, to discern and to evaluate. The Church needs to be full of people in relationship with the Lord, rather than dispensing a formula or recipe.

Voice 3 The Church understood through the lens of synodality risks leading us towards a horizontal form of understanding the nature of the Church and our place in it. All Communion flows from that outpouring of life and love that is the inner life of the Trinity and in which we are called to share, and we can only experience true communion between believers if we are dwelling continually at the well-spring of Trinitarian communion.

Voice 1 Vatican II (Lumen Gentium 8) proposed a model of Church which included all who would believe in Christ. Therefore, we maintain and develop relationships with other Christian traditions and denominations in response to Jesus' prayer that "they may be one". The pressures of life and work make it hard for many to be involved in extra commitments, but people can live and act ecumenically in their everyday life. We need people with sufficient knowledge and understanding of ecumenism, theology and Church teaching to engage at a leadership level and to inform and encourage others.

ALL Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, bestower of most precious gifts, grant to me a strong and living faith, and a most confident hope in all divine promises, which prompts me to abandon myself unreservedly to You and Your guidance.

Pause in silence for reflection.



EXHORTATIONS FOR CONTINUING ON THE SYNODAL PATH

As we journey together on the synodal path, we have become very aware of our fears. Fear and anxiety about our place in the Church and its future can make us impatient and insensitive to the real and immediate needs of those around us. Jesus tells us explicitly to NOT be afraid and to trust in him. Let us be open and honest about our fears and, through that sharing of our vulnerability, work towards a Church empowered by trust and not driven out of fear.

ALL Lord, fill us with your Spirit.

As we journey together on the synodal path, we are reminded that our redemption rests in the Christ who came that we might have life and have it to the full. (Jn 10:10). The synodal path calls each of us to be an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ which requires of us a total conversion of heart through the Holy Spirit. Let us support one another with prayer along this path of necessary personal conversion through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ALL Lord, fill us with your Spirit.

As we journey together on the synodal path, we are aware of the limits of our knowledge of the faith. We feel at times unequal to the task of communicating our beliefs to others, and vulnerable in the face of criticism and contested values in the public square. For missionary discipleship we need spiritual formation and instruction in the faith to enter more deeply into relationship with Christ. Let us work to become a Church filled with people in relationship with the Lord that can authentically witness to God's love in a broken and hurting world.

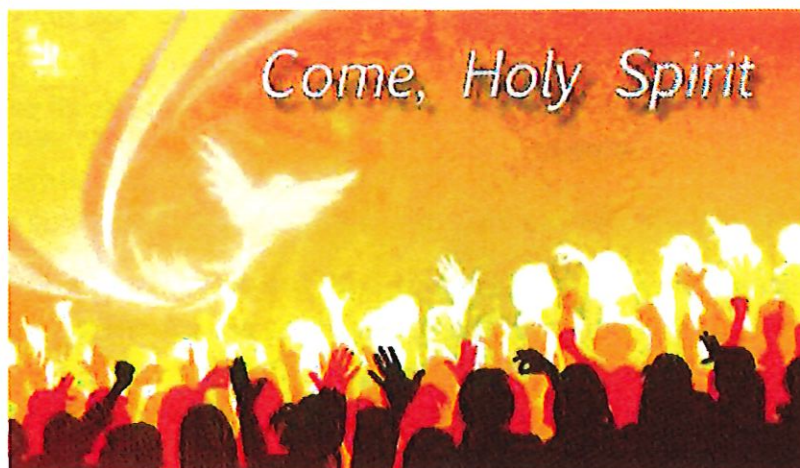
ALL Lord, fill us with your Spirit.

As we journey together on the synodal path, the words of our Australian Saint, Mary MacKillop, remind us that 'We must use every means in our power to lead others to life' especially those on the margins of both Church and society. Let us work together to create authentic welcoming Christian communities enabling ongoing conversion through Christ-centred friendships and a radical openness to the will of God made known through the Holy Spirit.

ALL Lord, fill us with your Spirit.

As we journey together on the synodal path, we are reminded of the words of the Council Father's in Lumen Gentium (37) "Let the spiritual shepherds recognize and promote the dignity as well as the responsibility of the laity in the Church. Let them willingly employ their prudent advice. Let them confidently assign duties to them in the service of the Church... Attentively in Christ, let them consider with fatherly love the projects, suggestions and desires proposed by the laity." Let us continue to dialogue together to realise this dignity of the laity and strengthened sense of personal responsibility.

ALL Lord, fill us with your Spirit.



UNIVERSAL PRAYER AND CONCLUDING RITE

- ✠ Mindful of Jesus' words that, "where two or three are gathered in my name, I shall be there amongst them", let us call on the Lord's presence as we offer our prayer for the needs of the Church and the world:

That Francis our Pope, Julian our Bishop, and all bishops of your people will be given the grace to listen humbly and speak courageously as the Church engages in the Synod of Bishops. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

That the dioceses and parishes of Australia, currently engaged in both the local Plenary Council and international synodal processes will be open and responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our time. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

That the unifying action of the Holy Spirit will draw all members of the Church together as they find ways to foster ecclesial communion, participation and mission amongst their parishes and broader communities. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit may illuminate the hearts and minds of all the faithful and draw them into the unity for which Jesus Christ prayed. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church universal, gathered in Synod, will be marked by faithfulness to the Gospel and tradition, and a willingness to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the world today. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit will help and heal all who suffer, and inspire all people of good will to assist those in need. Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL Lord, hear our prayer.

- ✠ Let us gather these our prayers and, with the prayers we carry silently in our hearts, present them to the Father in the word Jesus gave us:

ALL Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Concluding Prayer

✠ Let us pray.

Grant us, O merciful God,
to be confirmed in our resolve to do your will
and make us everywhere witnesses to your truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

℟ *Amen.*

Solemn Blessing

✠ The Lord be with you.

ALL And with your spirit.

✠ Bow down for the blessing.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL Amen.

✠ And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

ALL Amen.

✠ Go in peace.

ALL Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout 'lutruwita' Tasmania, and their connections to land, sea and community, offering our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We ask the Holy Spirit to wash over us and fill us with the strength to walk together as one.

We pray for healing, forgiveness and unity, creating a path of good will, with justice and compassion.